(घ) पानीपत के शॉडी कताईकारों के अनुरोध पर सरकार ने बजट अभिभाषण में की गई घोषणा की समीक्षा की और ऊनी वेस्ट जो शॉडी सूत कातने वालों के लिए मूल्य कच्चा माल भी है पर लगाए गए शुल्क की स्थिति यथापूर्व बनाए रखी । सरकार पानीपत में हथकरघा निर्मित कम्बलों को रक्षा और अर्द्धसैनिक संगठनों में थोक आपूर्ति करने के लिए उपलब्ध करती है और इस प्रकार इन कम्बलों के विपणन में संवर्धन कर रही है । पानीपत के बुनकरों को अच्छे डिजाइन उपलब्ध करवाने और उन्हें बुनाई, रंगाई तथा प्रोसेसिंग में आवश्यक प्रशिक्षण देने हेतु सरकार पानीपत में एक बुनकर सेवा केंद्र चला रही है ।

Non-purchase of Jute by JCI in West Bengal

1864. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jute Corporation of India has not been purchasing jute from the market in West Benagl;

(b) reasons for non-purchasing of jute by JCI; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Government of West Bengal contemplates setting up of an alternative corporation on the JCI pattern for purchase and marketing of jute in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Jute Corporation of India plans to purchase the quantity of raw jute that is offered for sale at minimum support price in West Bengal and other parts of the country.

(c) Press reports indicate that the Government of West Bengal is contemplating setting up a new Corporation to purchase raw jute

Closure of Raja Mills of Bangalore

1865. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the century old Raja Mills, Bangalore a unit of NTC which employ over 1300 persons is being proposed to be closed down;

(b) whether Government propose to hand over this unit to a new independent management with staff representation instead closing down of a premier well known textile unit in the country and use it to manufacture textile only for export; and

(c) whether Government are aawre that this Raja Mill is being closed partly because some vested interests which have an eye on this valuable land and property in the heart of the city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) No decision has been taken on hte proposal to merge/amalgamate Raja Mills with the adjacent Minerva Mills under NTC.

Agreement with UNDP for Revitalising Jute Industry

1866. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed a new agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for revitalising the Indian Jute Industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Programme covers the areas of jute agriculture, development of new products, employment generation, development of jute machinery sector, R&D